

State Interoperability Executive Committee

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Status

The legislation creating the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) identified four key deliverables to be accomplished not later than December 31, 2004. The SIEC has delivered the first two, the *Inventory of State Government-Operated Public Safety Communications Systems* and the *Interim Statewide Public Safety Communications Systems Plan* within the timeframes specified by the legislature. Two deliverables remain: an inventory of all public safety communications systems is due by July 31, 2004, and the final statewide communications plan is due by December 31, 2004.

In the process of reviewing the scope of work and securing the funding necessary to accomplish the remaining two tasks, it has been determined that the public may be most efficiently served by consolidating these two activities and obtaining a contractor to perform them. The contractor would be responsible for collecting inventory data, analyzing the data, and creating a final communications plan based on recommendations that are first approved by the SIEC. Funding for this work has been obtained through a grant from the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP)

While the SIEC and ISB are required to meet the above deadlines, the delivery dates for the remaining two deliverables need to be extended by five months. This will allow for the additional time required for the release of funds from the Office of Domestic Preparedness, and the need to craft a singular, but more extensive acquisition document.

The vendor community is currently viewing a Request For Proposal. Assuming that the process continues as planned, it is possible that a consultant can start on this project as soon as August 16.

The *Interim Statewide Public Safety Communications Plan* was completed and submitted to the legislature on March 30 2004. The SIEC is now placing this item on the agenda for the Board's approval

The legislation establishing the SIEC gives responsibility for electing members of the SIEC to the ISB. There is a potential for 15 members of the SIEC, 13 of which are expressly named by organization in the legislation. Currently there are four vacancies on the SIEC.

Issues/Risks

The local government inventory and statewide communications plan will be considerably more complex and will require greater resources than the state, with its current staffing levels, can bring to bear. Specifically:

- 1,400+ public safety/initial responders will need to be surveyed
- Inventory must be created via the Internet complete with security interfaces
- Inventory must account for additional modes of data entry
- Both the statewide inventory and final communications plan must include additional information from the State's nine (9) Homeland Security Regions
- The statewide inventory and final plan must be more comprehensive than the state inventory and Interim Plan was.
- All data must be validated

- Final plan will be used for multiple biennia and if not done properly there could be significant downstream impact.
- Plan must anticipate future requirements for growth and new technologies
- Most states require well over a year to complete a study. Our research indicates that smaller states required at a minimum 15 months to complete what we will be attempting in nine.

Background

The SIEC became a committee of the Board July 1, 2003. In addition to the requirements outlined the SIEC was tasked with the following:

- Make recommendations to the Board for technical standards governing state wireless radio communications systems.
- Coordinate and manage, on behalf of the Board, licensing and use of state-designated and state-licensed radio frequencies
- Seek support, including possible federal funding or other funding, for state-sponsored wireless communications
- Develop recommendations for legislation that ...(will) promote interoperability.
- Foster cooperation and coordination among public safety and emergency response organizations
- Work with wireless communications groups and associations to ensure interoperability among all public safety and emergency response organizations
- Work with the wireless communications groups to promote interoperability of wireless communications
- Be the single point of contact for the Federal Communications Commission and other agencies or organizations.

SIEC Recommends A Process to Move Forward, Absent a Final Communication Plan:

- The SIEC should use preliminary information obtained from the statewide inventory and the *Interim Statewide Public Safety Communications Plan* for the purposes of making recommendations to the ISB and legislators.
- All recommendations will assist the state in creating short-term interoperability solutions.
- Any recommendations made should include, to the greatest extent possible, solutions that will assist local governments communicate with the state, when their mission dictates and as required in times of emergency.
- Recommendations should include, to the greatest extent possible solutions that could be easily replicated, and include equipment that can be moved to accommodate expansion. The intent is not to purchase equipment or material that will be used for the Interim Plan and discarded when a Final Communications Plan is implemented.